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TWO CENTS.

BOTH SIDES READY FOR BIG OFFENSIVE ON WESTERN FRONT Favorable Committee Report

Dutwardly No New Developments. But Allies and Germans Are Preparing,

ENEMY SHOCK TROOPS MASSING FOR ATTACK

Secretary Baker Reviews Operations in All Theaters of War for Week Ending February 16.

After extensive preparations, silently and systematically carried on, it is apallies are ready for the long-expected Department. offensive in the west, Secretary Baker of the War Department says today, in his review of military operations for the week ending February 16.

"While there have been outwardly no new developments in the military situation in the west during the period under review," says the Secretary's statement, "yet it is apparent that both the enemy and the allies, after the extensive preparations which have been silently and systematically carried on, are ready for battle. The Germans have recently withdrawn a number of their veteran west front units from the first line trenches and are busily training them in mobile warfare.

Hopes for Crushing Blow.

"According to advices received, the German general staff hopes that by massing a large number of these picked shock battalions, which have been in-tensively trained, they may deliver a "The bulk of the German forces are

now assembled in the west. But a now assembled in the west. But a large number of these units are wholly untrained in the method of western front warfare, which differs radically from that conducted along other fronts. Furthermore, the German higher command realizes that their forces will meet with far more difficult tactical obstacles than any hitherto encountered by an attacking army. A break through was possible in Russians had been undermined; the same was true in Italy, and we witnessed had been undermined; the same rue in Italy, and we witnessed speedily the Italian line was

"During the week there has been anch activity of a minor character ong the entire western front." As has already been announced, in straine a segment of the line is enely under the control of our forces. ong our front patrol encounters were merous. The Germans undertook a id against our positions and succeedin inflicting a few casualities. A sall American patrol, while scouting no man's land was ambushed by the emy.

Americans in Artillery Duels.

operation was the most important of the week in the west. After very careour batteries co-operated usefully, French infantry advanced to the assault southwest of the Butte du Mesnil, along a front of about 1,400 yards. The French, succeeding in penetrating the German positions, broke through ful artillery preparation, during which The French, succeeding in penetrating the German positions, broke through the second and reached the third German line. During this brisk attack the French destroyed many enemy shelters, inflicted much damage to enemy positions, besides bringing back 150 prisoners.

German units were also active. Their

temporarily successful in the vicinity of Bezonvaux and in Alsace. However, en German raids at various other nts broke down. French artillery ept the enemy constantly engaged

ong a widely scattered area.
"The British front was also the scene "The British front was also the scene of numerous minor engagements. No important actions took place, and the enemy, who evidently was busy with the grouping of units and disposing fresh forces, recently arrived from other theaters, in the front line, undertook only such reconnoitering engagements as to familiarize the new units with the nature of the terrain in front th the nature of the terrain in front them.

Activity on Other Fronts.

"In the Italian theater the enemy has again assumed an aggressive attitude.
"The concentration of an important body of German cavalry in the vicinity of Riga is noted, and it is believed that the Germans may find it expedient to advance on Petrograd. The Russiar contingents are evacuating the Arr contingents are evacuating the Armenian centers south of the Black sea, which are being reoccupied by Turkish detachments. Trebizond will probably soon fall into Turkish hands.

"It is important to record that large contingents of Arabs are joining the forces of the Sheik of Mecca, who is coperating with the British "The Arabs have defeated the Turk in two encounters, occupied El Mazreh southeast of the Dead sea, and are ad vancing along the Hedjaz railway to-ward Maan."

ENGINEERS OF ENGLAND REJECT MAN-POWER PLAN

LONDON, February 20 .- The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, according to a statement issued by the sec retary of the society, has rejected the ment's man-power proposals by 13,54 votes. The figures were: For he governmet proposal 27,470; against

\$4,200,000 TO BUY OLD ARLINGTON SITE

on House Bill for Treasury Offices.

608,000 SQ. FT. ARE ADDED

Representative Frank Clark of Flor ida, chairman of the House committee HIGH COST OF LIVING on public buildings and grounds, favor ably reported today the bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to ex pend \$4,200,000 for the purchase of the site and the fireproof building being erected thereon of the old Arlington Ho tel property, on the west side of Vermont avenue between H and I streets

It is intended that the Treasury De partment shall finish the main building by October 1 and the annex by Febru ary 1, to provide needed office space parent that both the Germans and the for various bureaus of the Treasury

The report of the committee says "not only is this space urgently needed by the Treasury Department, but we are convinced that the terms under which it is proposed to convey this property to the government are exceedingly advantageous both with relation to value and the shortness of time in which the building will be available for use."

Adds 608,000 Sq. Ft. for Offices.

The new building will provide a total of 608,000 square feet of office space and will be a "substantial, fireproof building with three stories under ground and a superstructure of ten stories and an attic. The outside ap-pearance will be in harmony with the general plans of government buildings as approved by the fine arts commis-

as approved by the fine arts commission."

In touching upon rental charges the report says "it is utterly useless to consider renting space in the District for the use of the department, for the very simple reason that investigation has shown no space is available. If suitable buildings could be rented it would not be economical at figures now placed upon them by landlords. One landlord recently informed the governmental department that after July I, when an existing lease expired, the government must pay \$3 per foot per annum."

Will Save \$104,289 in Rents.

As the Treasury Department is now paying \$104,289 per annum for office rent in this city, and as the proposed building will accommodate all the ac-

It is intended to use the new office building for housing the entire force of the war risk insurance bureau and a portion of the internal revenue force, the report points out. The war risk insurance bureau at the present time is occupying four different buildings in various parts of the city, which militates seriously against the efficiency of the force and jeopardizes the safety of important records and documents. In giving some idea of the immensity of the work of this bureau the report points out that already eleven hundred thousand applications for insurance have been made.

Ten Billions of Insurance Ahead. It is estimated that soon the bureau will have issued about \$10,000,000,000 of insurance. The committee empha-

**Continue that and do hudings for many that it is majority of the lithic present points and that the majority of many that the points and that the majority of many that the points and that the majority of the present points and that the majority of the points and that the majority of the present points and that the points and that the majority of the present points and that the points and that the majority of the present points and that the points and that the majority of the present points and that the points and the present points and that the majority of the present points and that the majority of the present points and that the majority of the present points and the p The weather was very rainy during the first part of the week and our troops were busy manning the pumps in an effort to keep their trenches dry. Later clear weather prevailed and hostille aircraft made frequent flights to reconnoiter our positions. A marked improvement in our anti-aircraft barrage is reported. Artillery duels took place and the Germans showered our lines with gas shells, which, however, caused no casualties, owing to efficient gas-mask protection.

"In Champagne units of American artillery participated in an engagement undertaken by French forces. The operation was the most important of the week in the west. After very careful artillery preparation during which."

Other Successful Raids.

"Other successful raids were undertaken by French detachments in the vicinity of the Chemin des Dames and the sinking of the Tuscanial He also expresses the research of the Sinking of the Tuscanial He also expresses the research of the Sinking of the Tuscanial He also expresses the research of the Sinking of the Tuscanial He also expresses the research of the Sinking o vicinity of the Chemin des Dames, east presses his profound admiration "for of Rheims, in upper Alsace and elsewhere. In all the French drove for the heroism and discipline" displayed by the "gallant American soldiers in ward twelve very fortunate reconnais-sance undertakings along different parts face of imminent danger." He adds of the line.

McMaster, assistant general manager

Cunard Line's New Building.

NEW YORK, February 20. - The Cunard line plans to build a ten-story day" read the weather bureau's offi-000 and \$15,000,000, as its permanent American headquarters.

Montana Ratifies Dry Law. HELENA, Mont., February 20 .- Th ontana legislature yesterday ratifled the federal prohibition amendment.

Confesses to Murder of Priest. BRIDGEPORT, Conn., February 20.confessed to the murder of the Rev. Father Edmond Kayser of Gary, Ind., on the night of August 24, 1215.

Tomorrow, Have a Wheatless Meal and a Meatless Meal

CAPITAL TRACTION CAR MEN PETITION FOR RAISE IN PAY

Motormen and Conductors Ask 40 Cents an Hour-Others Increase of 5 Cents.

GIVEN AS THE REASON

J. H. Cookman, Business Agent of Union, Believes Company Will See Justice of Request.

Employes of the Capital Traction Company today submitted to the company a petition for a flat rate of 40 cents an hour for motormen and conductors and an increase of 5 cents an hour for barnmen and switchmen. After he had delivered the petition to

George E. Hamilton, president of the company, J. H. Cookman, business agent for the carmen's union said: "Things look very favorable. We be lieve the company will see the justice of

our requests, but in any event, there will not be a strike. The men will live up to their agreement and submit the matter to arbitration if they cannot reach an agreement with the company."

Wage Scale in Agreement.

The wage scale for motormen and ment last year was as follows: First year, 25 cents an hour; second year, 25% cents; third year, 26 cents; fourth and fifth, 27 cents; sixth, 28 cents, and seventh and thereafter, 30 cents. In October the company voluntarily added two cents an hour to each of these

classes.

Under the increases granted in October switchmen now receive 22½ cents an hour and barnmen 20 cents an hour. The petition submitted today also asks that whenever a conductor or motorman is detailed to instruct a new man, he be paid 3 cents an hour above the flat rate of 40 cents an hour. The petition asks that the increases take effect March 30.

After reciting the increases asked for, the statement submitted to the company concludes:

Statement to the Company.

"We feel that it is scarcely necessary sity of this increase, since the last wage was adopted, which at that time was not sufficiently high to meet the cost of living then prevailing. Since that time the cost of living has so increased that it is not possible for us to maintain the standard of American living as now prevails in the District of Columbia and continue to work revolver, and the veggmen realied with creased that it is not possible for us to maintain the standard of American living as now prevalls in the District of Columbia and continue to work for the wage we are now receiving.

"We would ask that you give this matter consideration at your earliest convenience and notify us when our committee can meet with you for the convenience and notify us when our committee can meet with you for the purpose of conferring on this subject as the agreement provides."

Supplementing this statement, Mr.

MONTREAL, February 20 .- Ross H. central states from the Missouri valley, the weather bureau warned. Sharp of the Steel Company of Canada, has been appointed a member of the Canadian war mission at Washington.

dian war mission at Washington. in all sections east of the Mississippi river, particularly in the lower lake region. Tennessee and the east gulf states.

"Fair and colder tonight and Thurs ffice building, to cost between \$10,000,- cial forecast. The lowest temperature tonight will be around 20 degrees, it was said. The maximum registered this was said. The maximum registered this morning was 61, at 5 o'clock. The mercury declined rapidly, dropping 11 degrees from 5 to 11 o'clock.

There was a small precipitation this morning. Rain fell between 4 and 7 o'clock. The change of the forecast from rainy to fair and colder weather was said by weather officials to be due to a disturbance over the unare Misto a disturbance over the upper Missouri valley.

> STURTEVANT SEAPLANE SHOT DOWN, SAYS ENEMY

Admiral Sims advised the Navy Department today that the American seaplane in which Ensign Albert Dillon Sturtevant, U. S. N. R. F., was lost is claimed by the enemy to have been shot down in flames. Ensign Sturtevant was second pilot in the machine.

"Apparently this machine was attacked by ten enemy planes," the dispersion of the statement of the stat



TO LOOT P. O. SAFE

Foiled by Deputy Sheriff at Hyattsville, Who Exchanges Shots With Gang.

Yeggmen cracked the safe in the pos office at Hyattsville shortly after o'clock this morning, but were driver off by Deputy Sheriff Garrison before they obtained any loot.

The deputy sheriff engaged in a pisto duel from his bedroom window with the cracksmen. He thinks he wounded one of the three safe blowers, who was carried to an automobile in which the

The deputy sheriff's home is near the post office, and Mrs. Garrison was awakened by some one walking in the yard. Just as she had called her hus

revolver, and the yeggmen replied with a fusillade of shots, several of their bullets lodging in the rainspout below the window from which the deputy

One Is Heard to Moan.

BIG GERMAN STRIKE IS BEING ARRANGED By the Associated Press. LONDON, February 20.—The

German independent socialists are arranging for a demonstrative strike in the munitions factories of the empire, commencing March 1, according to information received from Berlin and forwarded by the Amsterdam correspondent of the Exchange Télegraph Company.

STRAPHANGERS TO GET **CHANCE TO VOICE KICK**

Given Opportunity to Express

D. C. Car Line Passengers Will Be

manner to prosecute the war to a successful issue."

A cold wave will strike Washington tonight, with a decrease in temperature of 40 degrees from the maximum been, it steels us to the sacrifice that will insure the successful conclusion of our common cause."

A cold wave will strike Washington tonight, with a decrease in temperature of 40 degrees from the maximum registered today according to the weather bureau, which flashed cold wave warnings along the Atlantic coast.

Named Member of War Mission Here

A cold wave will strike Washington tonight, with a decrease in temperature of 40 degrees from the maximum tonight, with a decrease in temperature of 40 degrees from the maximum registered today according to the weather bureau, which flashed cold wave warnings along the Atlantic coast.

A cold wave will strike Washington tonight, with a decrease in temperature of 40 degrees from the maximum registered today according to the weather bureau, which flashed cold wave warnings along the Atlantic coast.

A cold wave is now moving over the

HEAR PRISONERS WILL JOIN GERMANS

Russians Circulate Rumors Teutons Will Be in Petrograd in Two Weeks.

By LOUIS EDGAR BROWNE. ablegram to The Evening Star and Chicago Dally News. Copyright, 1918.

PETROGRAD, February 15 (delayed). Wild rumors are circulating in Petrosession of the Russian capital within wo weeks and that large hoards of eastern armies of the central powers reichstag main committee yesterday.

the be given an opportunity to express their views about "skip-stops" at a public hearing to be held by the Public tit. The Capital Traction Company has agreed to the suggestions of John A. Beeler, traffic expert, for the elimination of certain stops on its lines, and the Washington Rallway and Electric Company has approved the recompany has approved the recompany has approved the responsive of the mendations for that system, with one of two exceptions, which are to be made the subject of special studies by Mr. Beeler.

It is now up to the public to say whether it wants approximate the process of the suggestion of the suggestion of the suggestion of the suggestions of John A. Beeler.

It is now up to the public to say whether it wants approximate the suggestion of the suggestion of the suggestion at Brast-Listovsk obstructed the proceeding the suggestions of the Russian army. The suggestion is try to crush the later that the Austro-German prisoners are constitution for peace at the trooper of the reichade, "Even today," he added, "we are prepared to conclude a peace which corporate the trooper and the washington Rallway and Electric to suggestions of John A. Beeler, traffic expert, for the elimination of certain stops on its lines, and the Washington Rallway and Electric to suggestions of John A. Beeler, traffic expert, for the elimination of certain stops on its lines, and the Washington Rallway and Electric to the public to say whether it wants approved the recomplete the proceeding that the Austro-German prisoners are the troopers and strengthen the inclination for the troopers and the troopers and the troopers are the program. The foreign scretary read the hope the troopers are the program. The foreign scretary read the wire-through the troopers and the troopers a

The soviet's hasty endeavors to or ganize a force of 100,000 men under Ensign Krylenko indicate uneasiness Petrograd is hourly receiving wild reports that Gen. Alexieff's forces, like a specification of the second of the secon bolsheviki declare that Alexieff is without sufficient ammunition for a long

GREAT BRITAIN SPENDS

LONDON, February 20.-Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, an explanation of who was responsible

Army Commanders and Red Cross to

Work Jointly for Soldiers' Comfort. Full co-operation between Army commanders and the Red Cross was ordered

at home and to promote the comfort and well being of those families. Red Cross representatives are authorized to be attached to each base hospital to furnish emergency supplies, to com-municate with the families of patients and render any other service for pa-Guerrilla Warfare Planned.

BUT ON OUR TERMS. IS GERMAN STAND

Von Kuehlmann Says Teutons Must See That Order Prevails in East.

ARMIES OF THE KAISER CONTINUE THEIR ADVANCE

Renewed Strife Not Popular in Austria and Germany-Slavs Will Conduct Guerrilla Warfare.

PETROGRAD, February

20.-Gen. Hoffmann, the German military representative at the Brest-Litovsk peace conference, has telegraphed to the bolshevik government for a written authentication of the Russian wireless peace message sent yesterday to Berlin. Gen. Hoffmann, according to a Russian official statement given out today, says that the authentication must be sent to the German command at Dvinsk

The Russian official statement says that a messenger from Petrograd is being sent to Dvinsk today with the original peace message, which was signed by Premier Lenine and Foreign Minister Trotzky.

By the Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, February 20,-"We can grad that the Germans will be in pos- no longer believe in the pacific intentions of Russia and must see that peac rifles and ammunition secreted in this city will be used by the 40,000 prisoners, gions of the adjoining countries," Dr. concentrated here when the great day von Kuehlmann, the German foreign omes and co-operation between the minister, declared in addressing the

new war against Russia apparently is net rapidly growing, but the selare that Alexieff is within ammunition for a long trian people, according to comment in the press of the two countries.

When the Brest-Litovsk negotiations closed all talk in Germany was of peace. The school children were given a holiday and joy bells were rung. The public apparently did not discriminate between peace with the Ukraine and with Great Russia, but acclaimed it as a general peace with Russia.

George Bernhard in the Vossische Zeltung emphasizes this point and wants an explanation of who was responsible speaking in the house of commons today, said the average daily expenditure
during the four weeks ending February
16 was 16,384,000.

ORDERED TO CO-OPERATE.

an explanation of who was responsible
for this disappointment. The socialist
Vorwaerts takes the same line and says:
"The more we meddle in Russian affairs the more we get away from peace.
What must be done is to stick to the
defense of our own soil and to make
peace wherever possible without annexation or forcible amputations."

Austrians Also Alarmed.

A large section of opinion in Austria. Hungary also is alarmed over the pros pect of a renewal of war with Russia. manders and the Red Cross was ordered today by the War Department so that everything possible for comfort and welfare of troops may be done.

Officers are ordered to inform troops of the presence of Red Cross representatives and their willingness to help soldiers or their families.

The order was promulgated to relieve the anxiety and to sustain the morale of soldiers worried about their families at home and to promote the comfort are promoted about their families at home and to promote the comfort are promoted about their families are promoted as the promoted and the part in the promoted are promoted and the promoted and the promoted are promoted and the part in the promoted and the promot Dispatches from Amsterdam and

PETROGRAD, February 16.—Guerrilla warfare is to be Russia's method of op-posing Germany, should that nation in-

PEACE WITH RUSSIA, SHIPBUILDING HEADS STILL AT ODDS ON U. S. LABOR TANGLE

Chairman Hurley, Builders and L'eaders of Workers to Hold Meeting Today.

STRIKES DECLARED OVER. **BUT ISSUE UNSETTLED**

President of Carpenters' Brotherhood Asserts He Will Not Leave Open-Shop Decision to Board.

Apparently as far apart as ever, and having reached no points of agreement at last night's conference between Chairman Hurley of the shipping board, William L. Hutcheson, president of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; Charles Piez, general manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation; Samuel Gompers and members of the Shipbuilding Labor Adjustment Board, another conference is being held this afternoon in the effort to straighten out the tangle between the carpenters and the govern-

ment.
Although strikes of carpenters enyards came to an end Monday, nothing has been accomplished as yet toward prevention of further troubles. At last night's conference Hutcheson

refused to leave the question of the closed shop to arbitration or to the decision of the labor adjustment board, asserting that he had no power of authority to sign any agreement cover-ing other than shipyards operated by the government direct that did not embody the closed shop principle. He insisted that before the government held the carpenters to the open shop principle it should take over all shipyards and eliminate profit taking by private interests. If this were done, he said, the carpenters would be willing to work on any terms the government might prescribe.

Shipyards Get \$7.

"On every \$100 paid the carpent by shipyards," said Hutcheson, "shipyards themselves take \$7. This what the carpenters object to. strikes are over, but the question it is not settled. The carpenters in that they have the right to choose men with whom they shall work employer is taking advantage of situation to try to crush the launions.

New War Not Popular.

LONDON, February 20.—Germany's new war against Russia apparently is not popular with the German or Austrian people, according to comment in According to officials of the company to the men quit work again today because the adjustment board had not as yet announced its decision on their demands. The men had been back at work since February 11, when they called off the original strike to await the adjustment board's action.

AMERICANS ON LEAVE HOUSED AT CHAMBERY

PARIS, February 20 .- A detachment of American soldiers going on leave in the department of Savoie are housed in the town of Chambrey, where the Young Men's Christian Association leased three casinos and a theater for leave will be sent to Challes Les-Eaux. The first arrivals, who are located in

The first arrivals, who are located in Aix-Les-Bains, are having a splendid time mountain climbing, boating, fishing, taking automobile excursions and attending concerts and theatricals parwhich professional performers have been employed.

A committee of American women engaged in Y. M. C. A. work has undestaken to launder and mend the clother of the soldiers, which are badly work as a result of trench duty.

Thirty states and twelve nationalities are represented in the first two contingents of American troops to arrive in Savoie.

Gen. von Kusmanek in Vienna. AMSTERDAM, February 20.—Gen. Hermann von Kusmanek, commande of the Austrain garrison which de of the Austrain garrison which defended the Galician fortress of Pramysl up to the time of its surrend to the Russians in March, 1915, he arrived in Vienna after three years captivity, according to a dispatch from the Austrian capital. Gen. von Russians was greeted by a number high

"HOME DELIVERY" About 1½c a Day Send a postal card or a telephone message to

The Star, Main 2440, ordering the paper delivered to your home. The price to March 1st is 1 cent a day for The

Evening Star and 5 cents per day for The Sun-

"From Press to Home Within the Hour"

After March 1st the price will be 60 cents per month for The Star, both daily and Sunday, to be delivered to your house or apartment, or 40 cents per month (approximately 11/2 cents a day) for The Evening Star.